

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3-22, and 24-59 are pending in the Application. Claims 43-52 were allowed, claims 1, 3, 5-7, 9-16, 18-22, 24, 26-28, 30-37, 39-42, 53, and 55-59 were rejected, and claims 4, 8, 17, 25, 29, 38, and 54 were objected to in the Office action mailed May 11, 2009.

Applicants express appreciation to Examiner Venkatesh N. Haliyur for recognition of the allowable subject matter of claims 43-52.

Claims 1, 3-22, 24-42, and 53-59 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer and claims 45 and 50 are amended, by this amendment. Claims 2 and 23 were previously cancelled. Claims 43 and 48 are independent claims. Claims 44-47 and 49-52 depend, respectively, from independent claims 43 and 48. Applicants respectfully submit that the amendments to claims 45 and 50 do not add new matter, and that claims 45 and 50 remain allowable for at least the reason that they depend from allowable claims 43 and 48, respectively.

Applicants hereby reserve the right to re-file cancelled claims 1, 3-22, 24-42, and 53-59 in a later-filed continuation or divisional application.

Applicants respectfully submit that the cancellation of claims 1, 3-22, 24-42, and 53-59 renders the rejections and objections to claims 1, 3-22, 24-42, and 53-59 in the Application moot.

Applicants respectfully request that allowed claims 43-52 be moved to issuance without delay.

Appl. No 10/822,447
Filed: April 8, 2004
Response filed August 12, 2009
Reply to Office action mailed May 11, 2009

Conclusion

In general, the Office action makes various statements regarding the claims and the cited references that are now moot in light of the above. Thus, Applicants will not address such statements at the present time. However, Applicants expressly reserve the right to challenge such statements in the future should the need arise (e.g., if such statements should become relevant by appearing in a rejection of any current or future claim).

The Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned at 312-775-8000, should the Examiner disagree or have any questions regarding this submission.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge additional fee(s) or credit overpayment(s) to the deposit account of McAndrews, Held & Malloy, Account No. 13-0017.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: August 12, 2009
McAndrews, Held & Malloy, Ltd.
500 West Madison Street, 34th Floor
Chicago, Illinois 60661
(312) 775-8000

By /Kevin E. Borg/
Kevin E. Borg
Reg. No. 51,486